

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AHMAD  
JABER

### HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Dr. Ahmad Jaber, a physician and founder of the Arab American Association of New York, a human rights advocacy organization.

Dr. Jaber was born and raised by his widowed mother in the Palestinian village of Yamoun in the West Bank. Following the example of his mother, Dr. Jaber worked hard to put himself through college and medical school. He immigrated to the United States in 1974 to pursue a medical career in obstetrics. While he is well-known for having delivered more than five thousand babies over the course of his career, Dr. Jaber was celebrated for his generosity and advocacy on behalf of others.

Dr. Jaber founded the Arab American Association of New York as a welcoming center for new immigrants to New York from the Middle East. Under his leadership, the organization grew to become a social services organization that provides adult education services, youth programming, and mental health services. More than that, the organization seeks to create cross-culture dialogue within New York's multiethnic communities. It has served as a liaison to challenge discrimination against Arab Americans.

I invite you to join me in recognizing the legacy of Dr. Ahmad Jaber as we give honor to his memory.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY DRIVEN RECOVERY FOR PUERTO RICO ACT

### HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Community Driven Recovery for Puerto Rico Act along with my colleague from New York, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT. This bill strengthens transparency and local oversight of federal recovery efforts in Puerto Rico by establishing a Civil Society Task Force to ensure that Puerto Ricans have a seat at the table in decisions about recovery efforts.

More than three years since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, the island is still devastated and Puerto Rican voices have been shut out of the federal recovery process. The Civil Society Task Force established by this bill will represent different sectors of Puerto Rican society including community organizations, unions, nonprofits and small businesses. The Task Force will be embedded within federal recovery agencies to ensure that the Puerto Rican community's ideas and concerns are incorporated into the recovery process.

The federal recovery effort in Puerto Rico has been removed from the people of the island for too long, and this bill provides an important mechanism to bridge that gap and enhance the accountability, transparency and

credibility of the process. I urge this body to advance this bill.

### TRIBUTE TO RANDY BONNER

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my friend Randy Bonner, who is stepping down this month from the Canyon Lake City Council. Randy is a community leader, a veteran, and a dedicated public servant whose many tireless efforts to better our region will be missed.

Randy settled into his lakeshore home in Canyon Lake more than two decades ago after retiring from his two professional careers, which included over 35 years in the computer/disk drive industry, and 28 years in the Marine Corps Reserves, from which he retired as a Colonel. His first foray into serving the small, gated city of Canyon Lake came in 2007 when Randy was elected to serve as the Canyon Lake POA Treasurer, then as the president in 2008. With his experience on the Canyon Lake POA, Randy felt prepared to serve on the City Council in 2010 and was elected by the voters to fill that role. After a brief hiatus off the council, Randy was elected again in 2016 to rejoin the council. He was selected by his city council colleagues to serve as the city's mayor in 2014 and 2017.

Throughout his time on the council, Randy has been a Board Member of the Western Riverside County Conservation Agency, the Western Riverside Council of Governments and the Riverside Transportation Agency. He has also served on the I-15 Through Temecula Valley Task Force and the Southwest Communities Financing Authorities Joint Powers Agreement (Animal Friends of the Valley). Randy is also an active member of the Canyon Lake Men's Golf Club, Over The Hill Group, After Lunch Bunch, Canyon Lake Travel Club, Canyon Lake Yacht Club, and was the Master of Ceremonies at the first Canyon Lake Veterans Day event and then again in 2010.

I want to personally acknowledge and thank Randy for serving on my Academy Nominations Selection Committee, and helping to determine which students from the 42nd Congressional District receive nominations to our military service academies. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Randy's significant contributions to the city of Canyon Lake. I wish Randy, and his family, the very best in the years to come.

### CONGRATULATING REBECCA LEGGIERI ON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rebecca Leggieri, Clerk of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, who will be retiring at the end of this year after more than 24 years of service to our country.

Becky was born in Schenectady, New York, and went to St. Lawrence University on a ROTC scholarship. She joined the Army as a Quartermaster officer and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ms. Leggieri first came to the House as an Army Fellow for Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan in 2009. Rep. Kilpatrick was a member of the Subcommittee, and during her fellowship Becky met the committee staff and learned the mechanics of the appropriations process. The Committee, recognizing her talent, hired Rebecca in 2010.

She began serving on the Defense Subcommittee in the minority. In that capacity, she needed to be versed on every facet of a vast and complex bill that encompasses hundreds of thousands of people and every issue ranging from day care to the delivery systems for nuclear weapons. This year's bill amounts to nearly \$700 billion and it impacts our nation's security and that of our planet. Becky's skills and her life experiences were all she needed to make the right decisions. In 2015, Becky Leggieri became the Subcommittee's Minority Staff Director and has worked by my side for the past five years to ensure oversight of the Department of Defense and numerous intelligence agencies. She balanced competing priorities from administrations, Members of Congress, labor, industry, state and local governments, and citizen interest groups. Her honesty, knowledge of the issues, and willingness to listen allowed her to develop legislation in which the many parties involved felt a sense of shared ownership in its enactment.

Becky Leggieri is a person of scrupulous ethics and is possessed of a sterling intellect and nimble mind, an innate political shrewdness, and poise under pressure. Most importantly, she used these talents in the service of her country and this institution to ensure that the Committee and House's constitutional prerogatives were respected and protected. Her steady hand will be sorely missed.

I know Ms. Leggieri's husband, John, and her children, Olivia and Gabriel, are so very proud of her, as are we all. I wish Becky every happiness and success in her future endeavors.

### COMMITTEE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, "HIJACKING OUR HEROES: EXPLOITING VETERANS THROUGH DISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA"

### HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to bring attention to an important issue facing our nation's veterans.

During a hearing held on November 13 of last year, the Committee heard about the risks faced by our nation's veterans when using social media. Based on the results of that hearing, as well as additional research and analysis, my Committee has prepared a report that not only details the risks faced by veterans, but also outlines a series of policy options and other solutions. The executive summary of the report, "Hijacking Our Heroes: Exploiting Veterans through Disinformation on Social